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ETHIOPIA

FURTHER DETAILS OF FIKRE 6 FEB PRESS CONFERENCE

LD071358Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] [Question] The fourth question comes from the Propaganda Department of the Ministry of Information and National Guidance: The Western press reports that the Ethiopian counteroffensive is aimed at the capture of (?some) parts of Somalia. What is your (?reply)?

[Answer] Despite the fact that Ethiopian territory has been seized by the invading Somali soldiers, Ethiopia will merely wage a just war to free its people and land--it will not capture Somali towns. There is no force in the world that can prevent Ethiopia from driving the Somali soldiers from the Ogaden.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that if any Somali soldiers surrender peacefully to the revolutionary forces, they will be saved before it is too late and before more destruction and havoc is perpetrated andmore people massacred.

The broad masses of Somalia are not responsible for the crimes committed by the arrogant ruling class of Somalia. In fact, by reinforcing their class alliance, the broad masses of Somalia and Ethiopia will drive out imperialism, their common enemy, from East Africa.

[Question] The fifth question was put by the television service: Mogadiscio, the Western mass media and leaders and Arab capitals have recently been reporting that Cuban, Soviet, Warsaw Pact and PDRY troops are fighting in the Ogaden and Eritrea alongside Ethiopians. They have also said that the Cuban and Soviet defense ministers are secretly in Addis Ababa drawing up the war plan. What is your opinion for [word indistinct]? The PMAC secretary replies:

[Answer] The Western news media report anything which goes against their class [interests] and information they get from the CIA. As I have already stressed, it is said that the imperialist countries underestimate black people and th'nk that Africans can do nothing without aid or support from outsiders.

As you all know, the freedom of the oppressed Ethiopian people was not respected by outsiders for a long time. Forty years ago when Ethiopia fought powerful colonialist Italy for 5 years, the imperialist countries banned arms supplies to Ethiopia. Nonetheless, the Ethiopians won the war without foreign military help. And even 80 years ago the oppressed Ethiopian people won the battle of Adwa without foreign assistance. All this shows us that the Ethiopian people are capable of defending themselves against their enemies without foreign help.

Imperialists and news media in imperialist countries know this to be a fact, but cannot swallow it. U.S. imperialism promised to sell us weapons for cash collected from the oppressed Ethiopian people. But U.S. imperialism imposed an arms embargo and has not repaid us. In order to obtain what we need, we have used our money to purchase weapons from socialist countries to save our revolution.

We have brought in trainers, advisers and doctors from friendly countries to stay until we are trained to use these weapons. They are now rendering us a service. As Ethiopia is an independent country, it has the right to accept any form of help from any country on a basis of equality and this must be respected. At this moment I want to thank the USSR and other socialist countries for the help they are giving us and for having appreciated the correctness of our revolution's policy.

Reports have been issued to the effect that the Cuban and Soviet defense ministers are secretly in Addis Ababa devising a war plan. These reports are baseless and devoid of truth. As I have already said, the news media for the imperialist countries are liars and CIA recruits, and that they spread this kind of false news does not surprise us. For 40 years now Ethiopia has had a sufficient number of well-trained officers capable of devising a plan to foil Somalia's invasion. We do not need the Cuban or Soviet defense ministers for such a task. Nor will they be needed in the future. We are capable of planning the continuation of our defensive war ourselves.

[Question] The sixth question was put by the ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY: The Somali ruling classes and their associates appear to be calling on the USSR to suspend its relations with Ethiopia. Do you regard this as interference in Ethiopia's internal affairs?

[Answer] It is interference. The fact of the matter is that the Ethiopian revolution is a base for the establishment of relations with socialist countries. The Ethiopian revolution has stripped naked and exposed the Somali ruling classes, who have been swearing by socialism. Now Somalia's true face is revealed and it is being recognized for what it really is by the peoples of the world. As I have already said, revolutionary Ethiopia has the right to establish relations with any country. Neither the Somali reactionary classes nor imperialist spokesman or governments can decide what is good for us. Now is the time for Africans waging an anti-imperialist struggle and people fighting to eliminate colonialism to choose their friends correctly.

[Question] The next question comes from the ETHIOPIAN HERALD: In his recent address to the people of Ethiopia, the Comrade Chairman [Mengistu] said that, although it would take time, the illegal war being waged by the Somali invaders would be crushed. In this regard, would you kindly tell us more about the fighting the Ogaden?

[Answer] Certainly. This is the most pressing and burning question at present. At the moment, the Somali invading force is falling and is suffering badly. [applause] It is suffering from hunger and thirst and has been crushed by the strong arm of our revolutionary force. The Somali forces have been routed. Some have fled to Somalia and thrown down their arms, while the rest have surrendered. [applause] There is no doubt that the forces of revolutionary Ethiopia will soon triumph in the war that is being waged to drive out the invading Somali forces. [applause]

Siad Barre, who has wrecked the military and economic position of the people of Somalia, has suffered badly. It is evident that he is accountable for all the destruction that has been caused. It is equally evident that the broad masses of Somalia will therefore arrest Siad Barre and bring him to task before he has the chance to flee the country.

[Question] The next two questions came from ADDIS ZEMEN: Comrade Secretary General, the five Western powers--Britain, France, Italy and West Germany [as heard]--recently met in Washington. It is alleged that they agreed to deliver arms to Somalia. What else have they done?

[Answer] At their secret meeting in Washington, the five Western countries--the United States, the FRG, France, Britain and Italy--agreed on the following steps to reverse the Ethiopian revolution in a coordinated way:

1. To prop up the reactionary ruling class of Somalia by pouring in moral, political, material, financial and arms aid;

2. To help the Somali troops hold Ethiopian territory and continue their invasion;

3. To use the forces of the reactionary Arab countries in the region if the conditions are not conducive to an invasion;

4. To render all possible assistance to the Eritrean secessionist groups, thereby creating conditions conducive to the internationalization of the Eritrean issue;

5. To render the necessary assistance to internal fifth columns in order to reinforce them and facilitate repeated and coordinated attempts to overthrow the government;

6. To brand Ethiopia as the aggressor: to brand it as a country where there is no respect for human rights and to wage an anti-Ethiopian propaganda campaign through their mass media in order to tarnish the image of the Ethiopian revolution and prevent the people of the world from seeing its true nature.

[Question] Comrade Secretary General, what was the outcome of the Ethiopia-Sudan peace dialogue?

[Answer] There have been some signs of an improvement in relations between the two countries thanks to the efforts of the OAU Ethiopia-Sudan mediation committee which met in Sierra Leone. However, this does not mean that the differences between the two countries have been resolved. The reasons for this are as follows:

1. The Sudanese Government has continued to (?render) all kinds of assistance to the Eritrean secessionist movements. The Sudanese Government has continued to assist the secessionist movements in their fight to secede.

2. They have opened a war front in the Gondar Administrative Region by strengthening the remnants of the aristocrats, thus causing problems for the broad masses of Ethiopia. They have opened their borders to the Ethiopian Peoples Revolution Party, the Ethiopian Democratic Union and the Eritrean secessionist groups.

3. They have made Khartoum the capital and base of the anti-Ethiopian forces.

4. They have stepped up their anti-Ethiopian campaign. They have placed their mass media, their radio and newspapers at the disposal of these reactionary forces.

All of these problems, basic problems which damage the friendship between the two countries, remain unresolved. There is no border or territorial dispute between Sudan and Ethiopia. There are no misunderstandings or quarrels between the peoples of Ethiopia and Sudan. The people and government of Ethiopia want to live in peace with their neighbors. We say that the Sudanese Government should ponder on the reinforcement of reactionary forces against Ethiopia's unity and revolution and its involvement in Ethiopia's internal affairs.

[Question] The following question came from the international service of Voice of Revolutionary Ethiopia: Comrade Secretary General, could you please brief us on the situation on the Eritrean front?

[Answer] The efforts to strip Eritrea from the motherland and to unite it with reactionary Arab countries have now become more intensive than ever before. The broad masses of Ethiopia view the imperialist plot in Eritrea more seriously than the invasion mounted by Somalia. Further preparations are being made for the long and ugly war that must be waged to free the oppressed Ethiopians of the Eritrean Administrative Region.

Since the formation of the provisional military government, unstinting efforts have been made to find a peaceful solution to the Eritrean problem, which was created during the period of feudal rule. These efforts have not been successful because of the (?instigation) of imperialists and reactionary Arab ruling classes and the reactionary attitude of the secessionist groups.

The reactionary secessionist groups have been bolstered by the moral, financial, military and political assistance they have received from imperialist and reactionary Arab countries. They have captured many towns and are making the broad masses of the Eritrean Administrative Region suffer. They are unwilling to accept the peaceful solutions proposed by the provisional military government since they have scored a few temproary and cheap victories. As a result, many lives are being lost and much property is being destroyed.

Ever since the broad masses of Eritrea have been living at gunpoint they have been unable to intensify their class struggle in line with the national democratic revolution program. For our part, since our struggle is a class struggle, however long it takes and whatever price we pay, no Arab-oriented and imperialist puppet government will be formed in the Eritrean Administrative Region.

The colonialists prevent developing countries from establishing peace and justice in their countries. The problems created in Nigeria, Sudan, Asia and Latin America were results of the intrigues and plots hatched by colonialists. The Ertirean problem is just the same.

I will stop here because the comrade chairman will soon brief the peoples of Ethiopia and the world on the Eritrean problem.

EFE: CUBAN REINFORCEMENTS REPORTEDLY EN ROUTE

PA072221Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2145 GMT 7 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Mogadiscio (Somalia), 7 Feb (EFE)--Between 3,000 and 6,000 Cuban soldiers are sailing aboard Russian ships to join the Ethiopian forces fighting in the Ogaden war, diplomatic sources said today. The same sources asserted that in addition to those in transit, some 3,000 Cuban soldiers are already involved in the Ethiopian war effort.

The Cuban forces, in the diplomatic source's opinion, have joined the Ethiopian forces to repel the guerrillas fighting in the Ogaden region with Somali aid.

According to Arabs and Westerners, the expiditionary force left Cuba by ship last week and they should arrive at their destination, the Ethiopian port of Assab, within the next 2 weeks.

The sources reveal that the main mission of the Cubans in the so-called Horn of Africa conflict is primarily to give artillery support to the Ethiopian soldiers in the cities of Harrar and Diredawa.

It was also affirmed that Cuban soldiers are piloting the MIG planes used to bombard the Somali rebels north of Ogaden.

The new Cuban contribution to the Horn of Africa leads one to believe that Castro's soldiers form the vanguard of the Ethiopian counteroffensive, which had been expected for some time. The objective of this offensive is to end the Somali siege of Harrar and Diredawa. After this is accomplished they will try to reconstruct Ogaden or invade Somalia, a nation which gave material support to the rebels of the Western Somalia Liberation Front.

NIGERIAN MINISTER ENDS VISIT TO ADDIS ABABA

LD071830Y Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1730 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Nigerian foreign minister, Brig Gen Joseph Garba, has yesterday left Addis Ababa for Mogadiscio after delivering a special message from the Nigerian head of state, General Obasanjo, to the PMAC chairman, Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Speaking on departure yesterday, Brigadier Garba, who is leading a high-level OAU delegation, said that he had held wide-ranging discussions with the PMAC chairman and added that he was quite happy with the outcome of the mission.

He said the mediation commission of the OAU becomes effective when both sides are prepared to receive us, and added that the OAU commission is at the disposal of both countries. He said that the Ethiopian Government had demonstrated its readiness to talk, provided certain fundamental conditions were fulfilled.

MILITIA LIQUIDATES 7 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES'

LD071602Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1030 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Kaffa regional police headquarters reports that in the search campaign conducted in (Medewa) Subdistrict, Kaffa District, people's militia and men in uniform have liquidated 5 and apprehended 36 counterrevolutionary bandits. These were former landlords. The Kaffa police also report that search campaigners have liquidated bandit leader Getachew (Ass) and his wife in the (Kalte) locality, Tulu District, capturing one (Belgian) rifle with a quantity of ammunition. They also recaptured 310 head of cattle.

KENYA

WAIYAKI RECEIVES ETHIOPIAN, U.S. AMBASSADORS

LD072014Y Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Kenya's minister for foreign affairs, Dr Munyua Waiyaki, was today briefed on the current situation in the Horn of Africa by the Ethiopian ambassador to Kenya, Mr Desta Mengiste. The envoy called on Dr Waiyaki in his office after a brief visit to Addis Ababa where he held consultations with his government. The envoy told Dr Waiyaki that Ethiopia was a victim of an external aggression in Ogaden, but will fight until the aggressors are repulsed.

The minister also received the U.S. ambassador, Dr Wilbert Le Melle, and their talks also touched on the Horn of Africa. The envoy said it was his government's hope that peace and stability would reign in the region. Dr Waiyaki and Dr Le Melle discussed other bilateral matters between Kenya and the USA.

SOMALIA

FRONT REFUTES ADDIS CLAIM OF CRUSHING VICTORY

LD080830Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] The joint forces of the Russians, Cubans and their allies lost 43 tanks 2 days ago, and also had two aircraft shot down over Jijiga on the same day. This was announced last night in a statement issued by the Western Somalia Liberation Front [WSLF].

The statement described as baseless reports broadcast by the BBC, monitored in Mogadiscio, in which the Abyssinian regime claimed to have crushed the WSLF forces. The statement said that this was merely wishful thinking on the part of the Abyssinian regime.

The front's statement went on to say that the joint Russian and Cuban forces and their allies had launched a two-pronged attack on western Somali territory from the Harar and Diredawa fronts. The statement said that warplanes flown by foreigners had played a key role in the fiercest battles, which took place on 5 and 6 February.

The statement said that the heavy air raids against the positions of the front's forces had been followed by artillery and tank attacks. The air attacks had been launched by MIG-17's, 21's and 23's, with at least one squadron participating on each occasion.

The statement went on to say that Stalin organs composed of 122 mm, 130 mm and 155 mm barrels had been used by the allied forces.

The Russian forces had been detailed to launch air attacks and drive tanks. The statement said that each tank had been manned by three Russians and one Abyssinian acting as both guide and interpreter. This had been learned from the interception of communications in Russian and Spanish.

The statement added that the Cubans had been responsible for artillery guns, engineering services and flying in paratroopers to the battlefronts. Large helicopters had also been used to bring up reinforcements.

The statement said that the fiercest battle had taken place in Harawo, 48 km northwest of Diredawa, and Khadar Adi, 27 km northwest of Diredawa.

The statement said that 26 T-55 and T-62 tanks had been destroyed in battles in Harawo, while [illegible] T-62 enemy tanks were destroyed at Khadar Adi.

The statement said that the battles there that day included air raids on Jijiga, where two MIG aircraft were shot down.

The front's statement disclosed that the entire war operation was commanded by a Russian general called (Katesov).

[Words indistinct] and said that after the WSLF forces were confronted by Russian and Cuban forces they had to change their war strategy so as to give the front's forces better ground where they could effectively combat the enemy forces.

The statement said that after the Russian and Cuban forces had taken over the war, the front's forces had conducted a minor withdrawal for the sake of better war tactics. The statement stressed, however, that this retreat by the front's forces in no way weakened their position but gave them a better chance to counter the enemy forces and inflict heavy casualties and losses on them.

The statement described the Abyssinian claims as laughable and far divorced from the truth, and said that they were designed to uplift the dead morale of the Abyssinians, to distort the war situation and to [words indistinct] the Russian, Cuban and other forces fighting alongside the Abyssinians.

The strategic aim of the Russians, Cubans and their allies is to wipe out the WSLF and Eritrean freedom fighters and recapture the liberated areas of Abyssinian colonialism, the statement said.

It added further that the call by the Addis regime to world newsmen is aimed at misleading world public opinion until such time as these aims are fulfilled. Such naked lies could not succeed, because facts testified that the Russians and Cubans have taken over the war operation from the Abyssinians and were no longer advisors.

The admission by the Israeli foreign minister, Moshe Dayan, that Israel was giving arms to the Addis regime clearly showed that, as we said earlier, Israel not only gives arms to Addis Ababa but also troops, the statement said. [sentence as heard]

The WSLF called on the Addis Ababa regime to tell the international newsmen that the WSLF [words indistinct].

The statement added that the unholy alliance between the Russians, Cubans and others could not withstand the just struggle of the people. We believe that the final victory will be with us because we are struggling for freedom and peace.

We call on the world community to condemn the Russian aggression against our people and the USSR's violation of the UN and OAU charters, the statement concluded.

AFP Report

TA081007Y Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 8 Feb 78 TA

[Excerpts] Mogadiscio, Feb 8 (AFP)--Somali liberation forces in the Ogaden have retreated in front of the Ethiopian counterattack, the Western Somalia Liberation Front (WSLF) admitted today. But it described the retreats as "purely strategic in certain places" and said they had not weakened the Somali liberation forces.

Today's communique issued in the Somali capital was the first official admission that WSLF forces had pulled back in some areas in the fighting with the Addis Ababa government in Ethiopia.

It said MIG-17, 21 and 23 aircraft flown by Soviet and Cuban pilots bombed WSLF positions, supported by artillery bombardments from 122, 130 and 153 mm [guns], Stalin organs and tank assaults.

The front said Soviet-built T-55 and T-62 tanks carried a four-man crew made up of three Soviet Union forces and one Ethiopian. It gave no figures for tanks involved. The front said whenever it knocked out one of the tanks, a helicopter with light aircraft cover retrieved the crew.

The communique said the counterattack was commanded by a Soviet general named Bareezov. It gave no details of casualties on either side.

MOGADISCIO REPORTS AIR RAIDS ON HARGEISA, BERBERA

LD081126Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Mogadiscio--Six MIG-21 and F-5 fighter planes of the allied forces of Russia, Cuba, Abyssinia and others have carried out an air raid on Hargeisa and Berbera towns at 1630 local time yesterday afternoon. According to a report, four of these aircraft attacked civilian centers at Berbera, while the other two attacked the city of Hargeisa.

The report disclosed that the enemy planes, which conducted the air raids in less than 7 minutes, were strongly repulsed by the air defense units of the Somali Army. No human casualties were reported.

Speaking to the SONNA regional correspondent after the enemy air raids, the acting regional party secretary of the northwest region, Challe Ahmad Abdi, said that the raids by the allied enemy forces is further proof of the Russian, Cuban and other allied forces' plans to invade the SDR.

MOGADISCIO SUPPORTS BONGO'S ATTACK ON MOSCOW

LD071558Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The president of Gabon, His Excellency Omar Bongo, has accused the Russians for being colonialists as well as imperialists. The Russian leaders, who have already fallen into the trap of overestimating their military strength, has taken them into a political disaster that reached a point of no return. [as heard] The policy of the Russians, as has been declared by the secretary general of the SRSP [Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party] and president of the SDR [Somali Democratic Republic], Challe Mohammad Siad Barre, is to create enmity against any sovereign state that does not remain submissive to the Kremlin command.

The president of the Republic of Gabon, His Excellency Omar Bongo, has told newsmen only last week that his country will not remain obedient to the authoritarians in Moscow--Kremlin. He added that Gabon will never play the role of the lackey in any form. Strangely enough, Moscow was expecting His Excellency President Omar Bongo to take permission from the Russians when he was paying an official visit to the FRG only last month. The protest was handed over to President Bongo, through the Gabonese Embassy in Moscow, by the Russians, not to attend the FRG.

As a reply, President Omar Bongo told his audience that the State of Gabon is not something born out of what he termed the Russian (?infiltrationism) and colonialism. Unfortunately, the statement added that Gabon is not a country that will take commands from the Russian capital or the Kremlin. Since both the FRG and Gabon are two sovereign and independent states, they can cooperate in a number of spheres. Why should the Russians interfere, the president asked.

The sinister objectives of the Russians and their blind policy has brought about their violation of intergovernmental relations. The Russians have absolutely denounced the sovereignty of Gabon since they have misinterpreted the relation as if Gabon was selling their sovereignty to them and stand by their back. [as heard]

President Omar Bongo of Gabon disclosed that the situation in the Horn has been aggravated by the naked Russian intervention. The president pointed out: It is not strange today that things are happening in the Horn of Africa. It is all the work of foreigners, he noted. The president added: It is a blunder, for once Africa is united, it will try the demons who fight against their closer relationship and mutual cooperation. President Omar Bongo of Gabon continued: Africans must be careful and remain what they are.

It is true that Africans need assistance from big powers, but they should not mortgage or alienate their independence under the pretext that they need aid. After the SDR had fully and openly rejected the sinister Russian objective, the Russians started preparing an aggressive war on the SDR territory. The Somali people currently collectively struggle against that naked aggression of the Russians while fully defending their sovereignty and national integrity. The Russian policy had been previously denounced by the presidents of Senegal, Ivory Coast, Togo, Sudan, Egypt and many others in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Western Europe and the United States. And that is the end of our commentary.

NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER ARRIVES IN MOGADISCIO

LD081128Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] A delegation from the OAU mediation committee led by the Nigerian commissioner for external affairs, His Excellency Brigadier General Garba, arrived at Mogadiscio airport today. The delegation was met at the airport by Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre, foreign minister of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR], and other Foreign Ministry officials.

His Excellency Joseph Garba told newsmen at the airport that he has a message for the SDR president from the Nigerian head of state, His Excellency Obasanjo.

Asked about foreign intervention in the Horn of Africa, His Excellency Garba said that foreigners should keep their hands off, and called on African governments to settle their differences within an African context.

Meets With Siad Barre

LD081130Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 0450 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR], received a letter last night from the Nigerian head of state, His Excellency Obasanjo, who is also the chairman of the OAU committee charged with mediating in the Horn of Africa conflict. The letter was handed to Challe Siad by the Nigerian commissioner for external affairs, Joseph Garba, who arrived in Somalia yesterday.

Talking to Mr Garba and other members of his delegation, Challe Siad said the SDR fully supports the OAU's efforts to solve the current conflict in the Horn of Africa. The president said that everyone has a momentous responsibility to insure that any measures taken toward the peaceful solution of the conflict in the region should safeguard the legitimate rights of the people of the region.

Brig Joseph Garba, who is leading a delegation from the OAU mediation committee, has already visited Ethiopia.

Further Details Reported

LD081224Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Nigerian foreign minister, Brig Gen Joseph Garba, left here today by a special plane after staying in the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] for 24 hours.

General Garba last night called on the president of the SDR, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, and delivered to him a message from the chairman of the eight-member good offices committee of the OAU, President Obasanjo of Nigeria. General Garba had extensive discussions with Challe Siad on the role the OAU, and particularly the eight-member good offices committee, can play at this stage in achieving a negotiated peaceful settlement to the conflict.

Challe Siad expressed great concern over the growing danger of the direct interference and involvement of Russia, Cuba and others in the current conflict. President Siad said that the assumption of combat roles by the Russians, Cubans and others who now had completely taken over the responsibility for the execution of the Abyssinian aggressive wars against the liberation movements constituted a highly dangerous development by complicating the issue and seriously undermining any further peace efforts.

Challe Siad pointed out that apart from the great threat posed by the Russian aggression to peace in the region and the whole continent of Africa, it also poses a serious challenge to the OAU since it will limit the independent action of the African leaders to solve their own problems. Challe Siad further stressed that the Horn of Africa issue is a complex one requiring a thorough study by Africa. It involves the just aspirations of the west Somali and Abo peoples who are under the Abyssinian colonial rule, Challe Siad explained to the envoy.

Challe Siad told the envoy that their national aspirations cannot be sacrificed for the sake of the Abyssinian regime or selfish interests of a big power. Challe Siad reaffirmed Somalia's support for the OAU good offices committee in its search for peace in the region and assured the envoy of the committee's chairman of Somalia's full cooperation in efforts to achieve a just and peaceful settlement to the problem.

MOGADISCIO REPORTS ERITREAN BATTLE SUCCESS

LD081208Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Eritrean freedom fighters are reported to have killed and wounded 7,000 Addis Ababa colonialist troops near Asmara, the Eritrean capital, which is under siege by the freedom fighters. This is reported by the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY today. The agency adds that the forces of the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front had launched an attack on the positions of the Addis colonial troops south of Asmara, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

OFFICIAL MAKES STATEMENT ON STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

LD071320Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Challe Ahmed Omar Osman, director of the Department of Higher Education in the Ministry of Higher Education and Culture of the Somali Democratic Republic, has disclosed that Somali students in Russia and Cuba are to return to their mother country.

Speaking about the reasons for the students' withdrawal, the director said that the Somali Government had decided to recall them after ascertaining that the students' welfare had been jeopardized, since the Russians had tried to (?brainwash) the students into opposing their own government and had stopped the students (?means). The Soviet Government had also refused to issue the Somali students with visas, to which they were entitled during their vacations, the director said.

Challe Ahmed Omar Osman added that the Soviet and Cuban governments had refused to pay for the students' return tickets. The Somali Government had therefore decided to bring them home on Somali Airlines within a (?3-day) period.

UGANDA

AMIN LAUDS CAPABILITIES OF ZIMBABWE STRIKE FORCE

LD061632Y Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Life President Amin has received at State House, Entebbe, a special envoy from Zimbabwe who briefed him on the situation there. The president told the envoy that members of the Zimbabwe striking force, which have been training in Uganda, are still completing their training and are ready to go and give more impetus to the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe.

President Amin said that the Zimbabwe striking force was committed to the total liberation of Zimbabwe economically, politically, socially and by whatever means. He said that members of the force are happy with the nationalists such as the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, who take a good outlook on the question of Zimbabwe liberation.

Commenting on the training, the president said the members of the Zimbabwe striking force are physically fit and ready for military operations. He said that some of them are more physically fit than some of the soldiers in some African countries, and during shooting competitions with them, he added, they were so accurate that they beat him by two points. This, he remarked, was very good and had prompted him to hold more shooting competitions.

Dr Amin said the Zimbabwe striking force assured him that they were ready for peace if rebel Smith wants it. Otherwise they are ready to march and liberate Zimbabwe by intensifying the armed struggle, which they see as the only alternative open to the militant Zimbabweans.

President Amin said: We practically support those nationalists who deal with the masses. He appealed to all Zimbabweans to support the leaders who are fighting with them and are ready to die with them inside Zimbabwe, because you cannot win a war unless you are within the country and are with the masses whose contribution to any war cannot be overemphasized.

The meeting was attended by the acting representative of ZANU in Uganda, Mr (Kichafi Indo); Uganda's ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr Kalisa; and the head of the African and Middle East department, Mr Katsigazi.

CHAD

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES FULL POLITICAL AMNESTY

PA0716llY Paris AFP in French 1455 GMT 7 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Ndjamena, 7 Feb (AFP)--A full and complete amnesty for all Chadian political refugees, prisoners and exiles was announced in Ndjamena on Tuesday by order of General Felix Malloum, president of the Supreme Military Council and Chad's chief of state.

The decree, which was published on Tuesday afternoon, states that "the main charges against all political prisoners and exiles have been dropped."

"Also dropped," the decree states, "are all government actions filed against political refugees and exiles. As far as political exiles are concerned, the decree expires on 5 April 1978."

The decree adds finally that "two commissions will be created to determine the fate of civilian and military officials, as well the status of goods which were attached or confiscated."

This amnesty, which applies only to political prisoners and exiles, fulfills the first point of an agreement concluded between the Chadian Government and Hissen Habre in Khartoum on 22 January.

GHANA

ACHEAMPONG REVIEWS DOMESTIC, FOREIGN AFFAIRS

LD071348Y Accra GNA in English 1158 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Accra, Feb 7 (GNA)--The Ghanaian leader, General Ignatius Acheampong, has urged Ghana's envoys to give new dimensions to their activities at the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, the non-aligned movement, the Commonwealth and in West Africa.

In a speech read on his behalf at the opening of a week-long conference of Ghanaian envoys here yesterday, he stressed that although Ghana had regained much of her lost prestige since his ruling Supreme Military Council came to power six years ago, her influence in the world within the next decade would depend more and more on the extent to which she is able to influence policies in Africa.

Ghana's missions would therefore have to mobilise African opinion to maintain effective pressures on those countries which directly or indirectly support minority racist regimes in southern Africa.

General Acheampong stressed that Ghana would continue to support the total decolonisation of Rhodesia and Namibia and that "the present talks should lead to genuine independence, else we shall have no alternative but to support the armed struggle."

"We reject Bantustans and will work for the freedom of all Azania," he added.

On the conflict in Western Sahara and between Ethiopia and Somalia, General Acheampong said Ghana supports the Organisation of African Unity and United Nations resolutions to resolve them.

He said Ghana sees much merit in efforts by President as-Sadat of Egypt to contribute towards a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

"But at the same time, I am anxious that Arab unity and Afro-Arab solidarity should not be sacrificed and that there must be a withdrawal of Israel from occupied territories to pre-1967 boundaries with a corresponding guarantee of Palestinian rights."

GUINEA

CONAKRY RADIO ANNOUNCES GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

PA070427Y Paris AFP in English 0407 GMT 7 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Dakar, Feb 7 (AFP)--Four ministers have switched posts and two new ones are appointed in a government reshuffle in Guinea reported last night by Conakry Radio.

The radio, monitored here, said Toumany Sangare, rural development minister for the Faranah Region, has been made transport minister under a government decree published yesterday. He would be replaced in his former position by Abdoulaye Diawa Balde, Kankan Region rural development minister, whose former duties in turn would be assumed by Arts, Youth and Sports Minister Mamadou Tounkara.

Central Bank Governor Momory Camara has been given the extra role of banking and insurance minister while his former deputy at the Central Bank, Sikoun Barry, becomes foreign trade minister.

The financial control portfolio passes to outgoing Foreign Trade Minister Soriba Toure, but the radio made no mention of the duties for its former holder Mouktar Diallo, nor for ex-Transport Minister Thierno Saikou Thiam.

IVORY COAST

PRESIDENT STRESSES FRIENDSHIP WITH GAMBIA

PA032003Y Paris AFP in French 1507 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Abidjan, 3 Feb (AFP)--President Felix Houphouet-Boigny on Thursday expressed the hope that the existing bonds of fraternity and solidarity between Gambia and the Ivory Coast "will develop even more for the common interests of the two peoples."

This hope was contained in a message of congratulations and good wishes from the chief of state of the Ivory Coast to President Sir Dawda Jawara on the independence anniversary of the Republic of Gambia.

NIGER

CHAD FAILS TO ATTEND NIAMEY MEDIATION SESSION

LD071508Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] Niamey, 7 February--Niger President Seyni Kountche yesterday received Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali at-Turayki. The meeting, which lasted 1 1/2 hours, was attended by the Niger foreign minister, the director of the African Department at the Foreign Secretariat and the Jamahiriyah ambassador to Niger.

The JANA correspondent in Niamey says that the president of Niger conveyed to the foreign secretary his full appreciation to the leader of the Great 1 September Revolution and the people of the Jamahiriyah for their acceptance of his mediation in the question of normalizing relations between the two fraternal countries, Chad and the Jamahiriyah, and said that what he had done personally and what the OAU had done had been primarily aimed at serving the interests of Africa and the people of Chad.

He expressed great displeasure at the decision of Chad to go back on its acceptance of his mediation. President Kountche added that the president of Chad yesterday evening informed the Niger foreign minister and his personal envoy of the Chad Government's agreement to this mediation. He added that Chad's refusal to attend the Niamey meeting and its suspension of relations with the Jamahiriyah were an unfriendly act toward the people and president of Niger and the secretary general of the OAU and the OAU itself.

NIGERIA

OBASANJO SPEAKS ON SYSTEM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LD062214Y Lagos International Service in English 1830 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Nigeria needs the wealth of experience of traditional rulers to consolidate the new local government system. The head of state, Lt Gen Olusegun Obasanjo, stated this in his message to the conference of traditional rulers in Kaduna today. He said that the amount of feedback he had received on how the system was faring in various parts of the country explained why a common approach and corporate effort should be evolved to solve any problems that might arise. General Obasanjo assured the traditional rulers that the federal military government would welcome any suggestions which they, as a group, might offer to improve the system without destroying its fundamental objectives.

The head of state also referred the conference to the Operation Feed the Nation, OFN, scheme. He said that it was not intended to solve all the country's agricultural and food problems overnight or to reduce by a half, within 1 year, the cost of housekeeping for every urban dweller. Rather, General Obasanjo explained, the program was designed to have a profound effect on the approach to the solution of the nation's agricultural problems. He was satisfied that the objectives of the scheme had been realized in focusing attention on agriculture.

The government had been able to identify the (?sources) of failure as well as those areas where the prospects of improvement were to be found. It is the contention of the head of state that once the nation was awakened to the problems facing agricultural development the criticism and the deep concern shown by most people on the OFN must be seen as a good sign. General Obasanjo asked the traditional rulers to make a comprehensive appraisal of the scheme and make such suggestions that could bring about rapid improvements in the field of agriculture.

ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RULES ON POLITICAL PARTIES

LD081030Y Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The format for the constitution and rules of political parties as provided for in the draft constitution has been passed without amendment by the Constituent Assembly. It stipulates that membership of the executive or other governing bodies of a political party should reflect the federal character of the country. The assembly also passed the program and objectives to be set by such political parties. Two other provisions dealing with political parties were also passed without amendments. They concern the annual report and the finances of the party and the prohibition of quasimilitary organizations.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES ADOPTED FOR ARMED FORCES

LD041124Y Lagos International Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] In the future, the constitution of the officer corps and other ranks of the Nigeria armed forces will reflect the federal character of the country based on the population of each state. This arrangement was approved yesterday by the Constituent Assembly under an amendment to the draft constitution. The assembly also approved other provisions concerning the armed forces. The relevant section stipulates that the president shall be the commander in chief of the armed forces. In addition, he will have powers to determine the operational use of the armed forces. The president will appoint the heads of the armed forces and a separate head for the combined forces.

MADAGASCAR

PDRY, MADAGASCAR TO ESTABLISH FORMAL RELATIONS

NC0410100Y Paris AFP in English 0953 GMT 4 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Tananarive, Feb 4 (AFP)--South Yemen and Madagascar are to establish diplomatic relations at ambassador level, an official communique said here today.

MALAWI

BANDA CALLS ON ASIANS TO MOVE TO URBAN CENTERS

LD0609402Y Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD/CA

[Excerpts] His excellency the life president, Ngwazi Dr Kamuzu Banda, has thanked his people for diversifying crop production since the country became independent. The life president was speaking today on arrival in Mangochi from the central region where he has been on a crop inspection tour.

In his speech, his excellency also reminded Asian traders who have not yet moved to Lilongwe, Blantyre and Zomba that they have now up to the end of this month to wind up their business affairs in the rural trading centers. His excellency the life president said it is now 3 years since Asian traders in the rural areas were given notice to move to urban areas of Lilongwe, Blantyre and Zomba, but to his surprise, the life president added, he had been told that there are still some Asian traders in certain rural areas.

He said he is now reminding them to move to Lilongwe, Blantyre and Zomba by the end of this month or the police will close down their businesses. The life president explained that he ordered the Asians to move to urban centers because he wants Malawians to do business in the rural areas. His excellency stressed that he has nothing against Asians or Europeans as such, but he wants Malawians to learn business. He said he also wants people of all races in the country to live in peace and harmony.

MOZAMBIQUE

ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION LEAVES AFTER VISIT TO MAPUTO

LD0715462Y Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Ethiopian delegation headed by Izzedin Ali, minister of energy and natural resources, has returned home after a working visit to Mozambique. During its stay among us, the Ethiopian delegation had talks with a Mozambique delegation headed by Mario da Graca Machungo, minister of commerce and industry.

The main theme of the discussions was the exploitation of the natural resources of Mozambique and Ethiopia. During the talks the delgations stressed their wish to make rational use of the two countries' existing resources, which during the colonial period were used to benefit the exploiters rather than the peoples of these states.

PORTUGUESE DELEGATION ENDS MOZAMBIQUE VISIT

LD071758Y Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The Portuguese delegation led by Jorge Sampaio, which held talks with our government on bank reform, left Maputo for home yesterday.

Before leaving, the delegation was received by Marcelino Dos Santos, minister of development and economic planning, who was briefed frankly, openly and positively on how the talks had proceeded.

It will be recalled that yesterday a joint communique was issued on the talks between Mozambique and Portugal stating that the complexity of the problems and the desire to find solutions serving the interests of both countries commend themselves to further examination of the questions discussed. The joint communique also stated that a resumption of talks in Maputo has been agreed upon at a date already fixed by the two delegations.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON VISIT OF HUNGARIAN MINISTER

For the Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP report on a communique issued on the 24-29 January visit to Mozambique by Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Frigyes Puja, see the Hungary section of the 8 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

RHODESIA

SALISBURY: SITHOLE SAYS 'PROGRESS MAINTAINED'

LD081308Y Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD/CA

[Text] The constitutional settlement talks resumed this afternoon in Salisbury between the government delegation, led by the prime minister, Mr Ian Smith, and the three black delegations. One of the nationalist leaders, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, stated as he left the meeting that progress is being maintained. Mr Smith, Mr Sithole and Senator Chief Chirau have agreed to twin voters rolls, one for the election of white representatives and the other for black members. Bishop Muzorewa has been pressing for a common voters roll, a concept which IANA [INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY] says Mr Smith has refused to agree to on the grounds that it would favor the election of liberal white representatives. Talks between the delegations involved are expected to resume tomorrow.

SOUTH AFRICA

SWAPO DELEGATION LEAVES FOR NEW YORK TALKS

LD072324Y Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] A five-man delegation from the internal wing of the South-West Africa Peoples Organization has left Windhoek for New York to join the SWAPO president, Mr Sam Nujoma, in the talks with the representatives of the five Western Security Council member countries. Members of the South African delegation have arrived in the United States for the talks, which begin Saturday.

OVAMBO MINISTER KILLED AT POLITICAL MEETING

LD071622Y Johannesburg International Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The minister of health and welfare in the Ovambo government in South-West Africa, Mr (Tayvo) Shiyagaya has been killed in a shooting at a political meeting. A child was wounded during the attack and was taken to hospital.

The minister was shot by a terrorist in ordinary clothes. He was attending a meeting of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance. The terrorist was shot and killed immediately after the shooting of the minister and the child by members of the Ovambo Home Guard. The incident took place at (Okayo) in western Ovambo.

Official Condemns Murder

LD081152Y Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The chief minister of the northern South-West Africa territory, Ovambo, Pastor Ndjoba, says that for the umpteenth time SWAPO has tried deliberately and in a cowardly manner to wreck prospects for an internationally acceptable settlement in South-West Africa. Pastor Ndojoba was commenting on the murder yesterday of the Ovambo minister of health, Dr Shiyagaya, by a SWAPO terrorist. The chief minister said that documentary proof had been found on the body of the dead assassin irrevocably association him with SWAPO. The terrorist was shot dead by the Ovambo Home Guard after the murder.

Pastor Ndjoba said the murder was a last desperate attempt by SWAPO to wreck the proximiity talks on South-West Africa in New York. He said SWAPO had been misleading the free world for a long time with its apparent demands for a democratic solution to the South-West African problem. SWAPO, however, was in fact nothing more than a slave to the communists who had supplied the murder weapon in the form of a Russian-manufactured Tokarey pistol. Pastor Ndjoba accused SWAPO of systematically murdering one national leader after another. He said the latest atrocity could not be covered up by SWAPO propaganda or blamed on someone else.

ZAMBIA

HAVANA REPORTS NKOMO REMARKS ON RHODESIA

PA050145Y Havana Incernational Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The Rhodesian regime could not have resisted the guerrilla struggle without the help of mercenaries from West European countries, Joshua Nkomo, co-president of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, said in an interview granted to PRENSA LATINA. Nkomo arrived in London from Malta where he and Robert Mugabe, also president of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, discussed the Anglo-American Rhodesia plan submitted at that meeting by British Foreign Secretary David Owen and U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young.

Concerning the negotiations between Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith and moderates Abel Muzorewa, Ndabaningi Sithole and Jeremiah Chirau, Nkomo said that the Zimbabwe patriots are not struggling against Smith because he is white but because he is a racist and fascist. He emphasized that those who negotiate with him want to step into his boots--the boots of an oppressor, of an imperialist agent. He added that more than 90 percent of Zimbabwe has been declared an operational area and that there are places where fighting goes on 24-hours a day. Finally, Nkomo said that there can be no cease-fire until an acceptable agreement is reached on independence, which he considers still far in the future.

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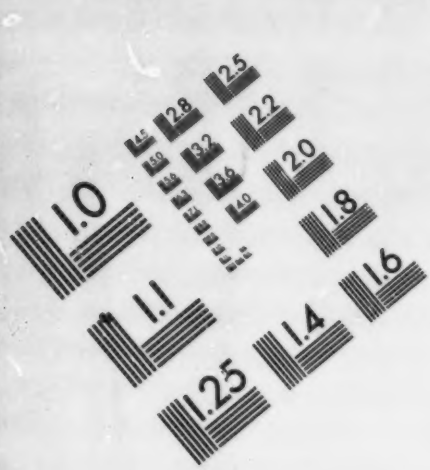

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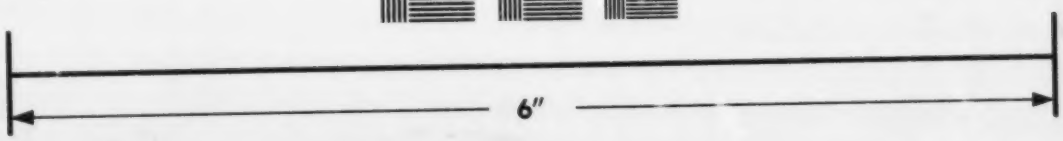

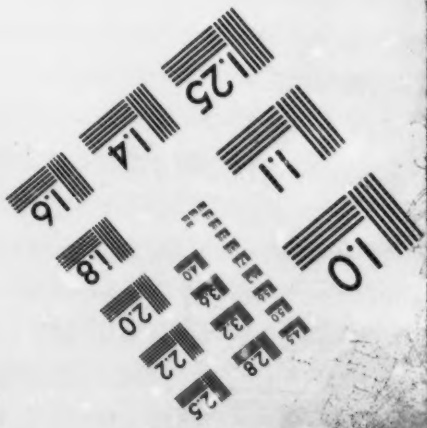

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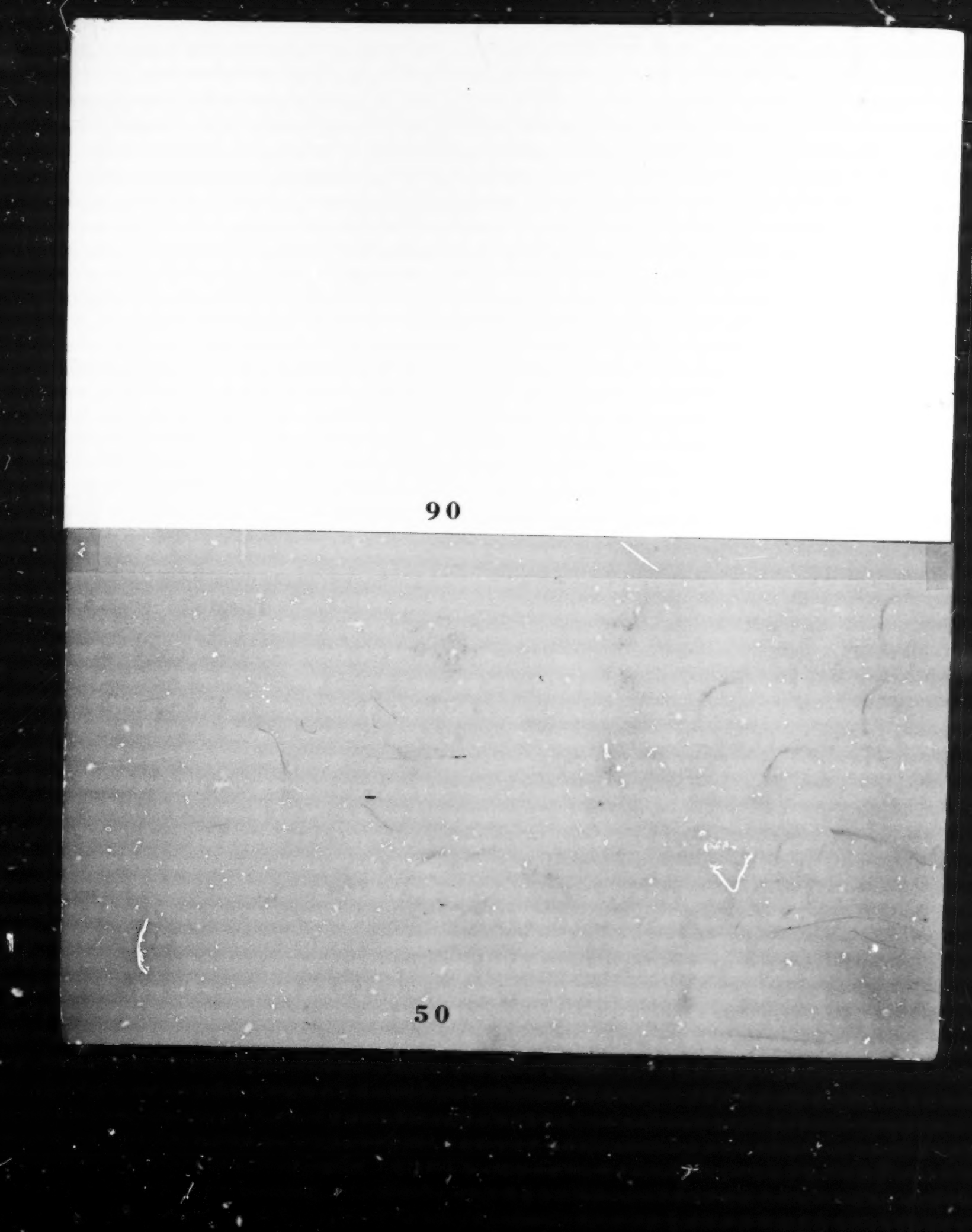
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